



TOXIC AVENGER!

Activist swims fetid Gowanus — but doesn't make it too far

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

An activist's Earth Day attempt to swim the entire 1.8-mile stretch of the Gowanus Canal — America's most polluted waterway — ended after just two-thirds of a mile and a mind-boggling 30



minutes in the water.

A swarm of news media, curious on-lookers, police officials, and a quick-thinking ice-cream man lined the shores of the canal near Degraw Street and watched in awe as Christopher Swain plopped into the canal and attempted to

swim from its rear-end to its mouth.

But Swain's journey — which he said he was doing to raise awareness of the slow pace of the federal government's Gowanus Canal cleanup — ended abruptly at the nearby grocery store Whole Foods due to a falling tide



(Above) Christopher Swain lowers himself into the murky depths of the Gowanus Canal on April 22. He swam the canal on Earth Day to call attention to its fetid, smelly, stinky, disgusting waters.

Photos by Jason Spakman

and the threat of a thunderstorm, which would have unleashed the thousands of gallons of raw sewage that routinely feeds the canal once it hit. He climbed up the rocky shore and into the parking lot where, when greeted by admirers, he swore he will one day return and

get the job done.

"I promise that one day I will swim the entire Gowanus Canal," Swain said, still dripping with the "water" that calls the canal home.

Swain was dressed in a drysuit and See **TOXIC** on page 12



A tractor trailer slammed into a wall where activists from Right of Way were installing a memorial to those killed in traffic on Saturday morning.

Truck slams into memorial

18-wheeler crashes into site commemorating traffic deaths

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

The back end of a tractor-trailer smashed into a wall in Williamsburg where a group of activists were installing a memorial to New Yorkers killed in traffic accidents.

The crash rattled the memorial wall where more than 40 volunteers of the transportation group Right of Way were almost pasted as they pasted silhouettes of 264 dead people on the temporary wall along Kent Avenue and S. Third Street on Saturday.

And organizers said no one was hurt only because time was on their side.

"If we had started half an hour earlier, probably some of us would



Volunteers were installing a Williamsburg memorial to those killed in traffic on Saturday morning when a tractor trailer slammed into the wall.



be dead," said Right of Way's Charles Komanoff.

The group spent 10 hours on Saturday hanging wooden planks and then pasting on the 264 5-foot-high, 20-inch wide panels that now covers two-and-a-half sides of the full-city-block construction fence. Each silhouette reads "Killed by traffic" and has the name of the victim underneath.

The 18-wheeler sped around the See **CRASH** on page 5

\$50 million wanted for W'burg home of Brooklyn beer, bowling

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

The massive warehouse in Williamsburg that houses the borough's eponymous bowling alley and brewery is for sale for \$50 million, putting both businesses' long-term futures in Brooklyn in jeopardy.

Thankfully, both the Brooklyn Bowl and the Brooklyn Brewery have years left on their deals, according to their owners who say their roots in Brooklyn are deep, and they don't intend on going anywhere anytime soon.

"We have a long term lease and no intention of leaving before it is over," said Brooklyn Bowl owner Charley Ryan, who declined to say how long that lease lasts. "If the building gets sold, it gets sold. If the person who owns the building wants to sell it, it is a free country."

Brooklyn Brewery, meanwhile, has a lease through 2025 on its space, giving leg-



endary owner Steve Hindy plenty of time to find new digs in the neighborhood or elsewhere.

"We are not in any hurry," he said.

The long leases mean both businesses are safe for the twenty-ens, but since they are both such large operations, they will have to start looking years in advance for relocation spaces.

The Brooklyn Brewery is already in the middle of a massive expansion project on bucolic Staten Island, where the company is building a larger brewery that will allow it to ship beer to the west coast via rail — something it can't do now. Hindy said he will not have time to seriously work on finding a new spot for the Brooklyn operation until that is up and running, which will not be until at least 2017. But he has already started keeping an eye out, and has scoped some potential spots in Sunset Park and in northern parts of the borough.

"We are very confident that we will be able to find another space," he said.

The half of the Brooklyn Brewery that houses the tasting room is in a different building owned by another landlord, so unless that building also sells, Hindy said he plans to stay on N. 11th Street for the foreseeable future.

Ryan first signed the lease for the Brooklyn Bowl in 2007, but spent two long years renovating the space, installing bowling alleys, bars, and a stage, before finally opening in 2009.

The Brooklyn Brewery moved into the building at 61 Wythe Avenue in the 1990s, when rent in the area was \$3 per square foot and the building was worth less than a million.

"I could have bought a building then, but I did not have a million dollars," said Hindy.

Hindy said he would not consider coughing up \$50 million for the building now.

"For \$50 million, you could not make money brewing beer," he said. "It would have to be a hotel or a nightclub or something like that."

The seller's broker, David Schechtman at Eastern Consolidated, did not return calls for comment.



Welcome to the party

First Lady Chirlane McCray hangs out with a pair of otherworldly party guests at the Brooklyn Museum's fifth annual Artists Ball on April 15. See story on page 11.

Photo by Stefania Giovannini

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Erick Fletes, Josh Dion, and Marty Diegelman in front of their motorcycle-only garage, Roll Up Brooklyn.

Chopper stop

Motorcyclists open garage in Bushwick

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

They're going the whole hog. A gang of recreational bikers is opening a Bushwick garage that caters exclusively to two-wheeled vehicles. Roll Up Brooklyn, which opens to the public on Jefferson Street between Wycoff and Irving avenues next month, will not only offer local motorcyclists a secure place to store their rides, but also a ready community of like-minded helmet-heads, said a co-owner of the garage. "So many people need a place to store their bikes, and it made sense to do that in a central location where people can contribute to a sense of community," said Roll Up Brooklyn co-owner Martin Diegelman. Diegelman and his partners opened the garage privately for their two-wheeling friends a year ago, and they are now taking the enterprise public.

For \$175 a month, wild ones can rent a space in the 24-hour garage, which also houses a communal workshop fitted out with lifts, workbenches, and tools. Members have free rein of the workspace, and are encouraged to help each other out on projects, Diegelman said. "It is not like we will fix your bike for you, but if we are around, we will help out," said Diegelman, who rides a 2011 Kawasaki KLR 650 and a 1981 Honda CB 900. "We will provide the tools and the knowledge and a place to work on their own bikes and help others fix theirs." There is currently space for 25 bikes, and Diegelman said they are adding room for at least eight more. Members are also welcome to store bicycles in their spaces if they ride them to pick up their motorcycles, but cars

and trucks are strictly forbidden. The garage has become a de facto clubhouse for bikers who want to hang out and grill with their buddies on a warm night, and one member said he expects the cookouts and community will only get bigger and better when it opens as a public facility. "It has become our front porch in a city where no one has front porches," said Timothy McSweeney of Bushwick. The garage will open to the public on May 1, and the owners said they plan to throw a party and art show on June 5 during Bushwick Open Studios. Roll Up Brooklyn (382 Jefferson St. between Wycoff and Irving avenues in Bushwick, between Wycoff and Irving avenues, www.rollupbrooklyn.com).



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Bedford Ave lot sells for \$36M

Former Salvation Army shop to become a retail complex

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

A Manhattan developer has purchased the former Salvation Army lot at the corner of Bedford Avenue and N. Seventh Street for a whopping \$36 million. Thor Equities, which is helmed by controversial real estate mogul Joe Sitt, plans to build a retail complex on the lot, said company spokesman Josh Greenwald, but no tenants are yet lined up. "We are not at the point where we know who will go in here, but it will definitely be retail," said Greenwald. The new shopping complex will likely have a ground floor, second level, basement and roof, according to the company.



The site of this former Salvation Army thrift store at the corner of Bedford Avenue and N. Seventh Street just sold for \$36 million.

That lot had held a Salvation Army thrift store for decades. The organization tore the building down in 2012 and claimed at the time that it was going to rebuild. The site was subject to years of speculation, with some guessing that an Apple store would land there. With enough buildable space to fill a quarter of a football field, the price per square foot comes out to about \$2,500, which is high, but not as high as the price that Red Sky Capital paid for two other nearby lots on Bedford Avenue. Thor owns several properties around Brooklyn, including the massive retail complex on Surf Avenue between Stillwell Avenue and W. 12th Street in Coney Island.

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Sneak swipes money from sleeping juror

84TH PRECINCT Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown Jury booty

A quiet crook swiped money from woman who was taking a nap at a courthouse on Adams Street while waiting for jury duty to begin on April 15, according to a report.

The victim placed her pocketbook on her lap and took a nap at 11 am at a courthouse between Johnson and Joralemon streets, and when she awoke an hour later, she found the light-fingered lawbreaker had lifted \$240 from the purse without waking the woman, police said.

Phone booked

Cops arrested a group of teens on Nevins Street after another group of youngsters accused them of stealing cell phones on April 17, according to a report.

Police corralled a large group of young people at the corner of Flatbush Avenue after a fight allegedly broke out amongst some of the teens around 6 pm, a report said. As authorities rounded the kids up, three other teens told the cops that some of the members of the large group had recently jumped them and run off with three cell phones, police said.

Cops collared two teenage girls and two teenage boys on theft charges, according to a report.

Blade runners

A pair of barbarians attacked a man on Nevins Street on April 18, slashing him and robbing him for cash and jewelry, according to police.

The victim was at State Street shortly before 9 pm when one of the belligerents grabbed him from behind and put him into a chokehold while the other galoot slashed his face with an unidentified sharp object, snatched the man’s chain from his chest, and fished a cell phone and \$250 in cash out of his pockets, police said.

The ruffians took off with a total of \$1,030 in loot, according to a report.

Cash and carry

An burglar snatched oodles of money from a cash machine on Furman Street on April 17, cops said.

The thief forced their way through a window of a building between Joralemon Street and Atlantic Avenue at about 8:05 am, broke into the machine housed inside, and ran off with \$12,000 in cash, according to a report.

The facility had no functioning cameras to record the incident, police said.

Unfair odds

A crew of anti-social brutes beat and robbed a man on Fulton Street after a verbal spat on April 18, cops said.

The victim got into an argument with three unknown men and three unknown women around 9:48 pm at the corner of Albee Square, when suddenly the dispute escalated, cops said. The six ne’er-dowells knocked their victim to the ground and began punching and kicking him in the back, head, and face, before snatching a \$700 iPhone 6, a pair of Beats headphones valued at \$800, a Michael Kors watch worth \$350, and a ring worth \$700, according to a report.

After lifting the \$2,550 in goods from their victim, the group scattered in all directions, stymieing officers’ attempts by to find the robbers, according to a report.

— **Noah Hurowitz**

**76TH PRECINCT
Carroll Gardens–Cobble Hill–Red Hook He said, she said**

Cops collared a robbery suspect after they saw him allegedly assault a woman and snatch her purse on Visitation Place on April 18, according to a report.

Officers observed a man

POLICE BLOTTER



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and woman struggling over a pocketbook between Richards and Van Brunt streets shortly before 3 am, a report said. The ruffian allegedly struck the woman in the face, grabbed her purse, and tried to beat a hasty retreat, police said.

The officers quickly found the rogue trying to hide underneath a nearby car and placed the 22-year-old Red Hook man under arrest, a report said. The victim, who had suffered slight lacerations to her shoulder in the kerfuffle, was uncooperative, telling the cops the bag was not hers — a claim that was quickly proven false when officers found her identification inside, a report said.

Some friend

Police arrested a brute after he allegedly punched a pal in the face and stole her cell phone on Columbia Street on April 14, a report said.

Cops collared the 44-year-old Red Hook man on April 15 at 10:20 am, a day after he allegedly got into a fight with an acquaintance between Bush and Lorraine streets, clocked the woman in the face, and ran

off with her \$100 gray Boost Mobile cell phone.

Police, who were familiar with the robber, arrested him at the 76th Precinct station house, a spokesman said.

Rock out

Several pricey pieces of jewelry went missing from a home on Cheever Place on April 19, police said.

The owner of the missing bling told police she placed her valuables on a tray in her bedroom in her apartment between Kane and Degraw streets at 4 pm, and the next time she checked on them, they had vanished.

The woman is missing a diamond necklace worth \$2,000, an aquamarine diamond necklace worth \$2,000, and a topaz diamond ring worth \$2,000, according to a report.

In and out

A woman with expensive tastes swiped a fancy handbag from a luxury department store on Atlantic Avenue on April 20, a report states.

The plunderer strolled into the shop between Court and Clinton streets at about 2:05

pm, grabbed a \$2,500 Saint Laurent handbag from the window display, and walked right back out, police said.

— **Noah Hurowitz**

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene–Clinton Hill Free munchies

A hungry brigand held up a delivery driver at gunpoint, stealing his phone and food, police said.

The victim told authorities he was delivering food on Leferts Place between Grand Avenue and St. James Place at 10:15 am on April 18 when a guy put a gun in his face and demanded money. The robber then put his hands into the delivery driver’s pockets and stole two of his phones and his food, according to a report.

Stick up

A victim had to defend himself with a stick when a man allegedly pulled a knife on him inside a storage facility, authorities said.

The victim said he was in a storage facility on Flatbush Avenue between Fulton Street and Lafayette Avenue at 5 pm on April 15 when another guy started arguing with him and then put a knife in his face, cops said. The victim picked up a stick and tried to fend him off, but the brute grabbed the

stick out of his hand and hit him with it.

Police arrested the alleged attacker and charged him with assault.

— **Danielle Furfaro**

68TH PRECINCT Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights Buried treasure

A subterranean scoundrel broke into a Third Avenue deli’s basement and stole \$20,000 and some generator motors between April 8 and April 13.

The burgled bodega sits between 74th Street and Bay Ridge Parkway in Bay Ridge, police said.

Tools vanish

Some opportunistic operatives took thousands of dollars in tools from two vans parked on Shore Road on April 16.

The vans’ drivers left their rides between 74th Street and Bay Ridge Parkway in Bay Ridge at 12:45 pm, but when they returned at 2:30 pm, \$2,425 in power tools was missing, police said.

No choice

A gun-toting goon said he had no choice when he stole \$300 and an iPhone from a Fifth Avenue store clerk on April 19.

The trigger man burst into the store between 72nd and 73rd streets in Bay Ridge at 8:10 am waving a handgun and saying “I have to do this. Open the blue box, and give me the money,” according to a police report.

The employee forked over the cash and phone, and the robber fled, police said.

Stooges stopped

Police cuffed a trio of toughs who allegedly impersonated cops and stole \$140 from a guy on the corner of 72nd Street and 11th Avenue in Dyker Heights on April 19.

The three stooges shook down their mark at 3:30 am, and then threatened him with a baseball bat before fleeing in a 2015 Honda Civic, police said.

But the goons got into a car accident an hour later, and police pinched them for the robbery, police said.

— **Max Jaeger**

62ND PRECINCT Bensonhurst–Bath Beach Take the call

A wacko whacked a guy with a phone in a New Utrecht Avenue bodega on April 14.

The attacker, a woman in her 30s, hit a 55-year-old man in the head with a cordless phone in a deli between 78th and 79th streets in Bensonhurst at 3:10 pm, police said.

Ganged up on

A gaggle of gangbangers savaged a guy on the corner of Bay Parkway and 72nd Street in Bensonhurst on April 18.

The toughs approached their victim at 2 am and asked if he was in a gang, and then pounced on him when he told them he was unaffiliated, police said. The ruffians took the guy’s cellphone and \$5, and told him they were part of California-based gang Southside 13, a police report states.

Chump change

Two masked gunmen robbed a Bay Ridge Parkway deli for a paltry sum on April 17.

The heat-packing duo walked into the bodega between 16th and New Utrecht avenues in Bensonhurst waving their guns at 8:10 am, police said.

The pair took \$40 from the register and \$1 from the clerk, officials said. When the victim tried to call her husband, the galoots took her phone as well, a police report states.

Pipes pinched

A clod copped \$74,596 in plumbing supplies from a W. Sixth Street business on April 16.

The store’s owner was opening the shop between avenues S and T in Gravesend when he noticed the lock to the cellar was missing, police said. He took an inventory of the basement and realized the supplies were gone, a police report states.

90TH PRECINCT Southside–Bushwick Rear entry

Someone shot a teenager in the torso and butt, cops said.

Police said officers responded to complaints of gunshots in the back of a building on Humboldt Street at the corner of Flushing Avenue at 10:45 pm on April 18, where

they found a teen who had been shot. But the youngster was uncooperative and would not identify his attacker, authorities said.

Emergency personnel took the teenager to Kings County Hospital for treatment.

Bottling it up

An argument at a bodega escalated when an aggressive goon hit a guy over the head with a glass bottle, a report said.

The victim told police that he was inside a store at the corner of Scholes and Humboldt streets at 1 am on April 18 when another guy in the shop started arguing with him. The brute then grabbed a glass bottle, hit the victim over the head with it, and ran out of the store, police said.

BMX bandits

A gang of kids on bicycles surrounded a guy and stole his backpack, a report said.

The victim told police that he was taking out the trash behind Orient Avenue between Olive Street and Metropolitan Avenue at 9:15 pm on April 17 when seven or eight guys rode up on bicycles and grabbed his backpack. The victim tried to snatch the bag back, and one of the bruisers punched him several times in the face and body giving him a bloody lip, before the teens rode off, according to police.

Party night

A pair of randy ruffians robbed a bodega at gunpoint, stealing cash and condoms, police said.

The victim reported to authorities that she was working at a bodega on Bushwick Avenue between Moore and Varet streets at 9:10 pm on April 15 when two guys came in wearing masks and gloves, and one of them put a gun to her head.

“Do not talk or I will kill you,” the robber said, according to police.

The other one went behind the counter and grabbed \$1200 in cash and a \$20 box of condoms, a report said.

Heavy metal

A quartet of violent teens attacked another youth with a metal pipe, authorities said.

The 17-year-old victim told cops that he was walking on Havemeyer Street between Broadway and S. Fifth Street at 4:30 pm on April 15 when four guys surrounded him and one of them hit him over the head with a pipe. The victim fell to the ground and the ruffians continued to hit him before running off, police said.

Emergency personal took the victim to Woodhall Hospital with injuries to the back of his head and back.

— **Danielle Furfaro**

94TH PRECINCT Greenpoint–Northside–Williamsburg Uneasy rider

A pushy freeloader climbed onto the back of a guy’s electric scooter as he was driving down the street, police said.

The victim told police that he was on his electric scooter on N. Seventh Street near Bedford Avenue at 10:07 pm on April 13 when a man started badgering him for a ride.

“Let me get a ride,” he said, according to a report.

The victim said no, but the cad put his hand in his pocket like he had a gun and then jumped on. He rode for about a block and then jumped off and ran away, cops said.

Teamwork

A gang of toughs orchestrated a slick robbery against a man in the street, creating a diversion while an accomplice purloined his phone, a report said.

The victim told police that he was walking at the corner of Conselyea and Leonard streets at 10 pm on April 12 when four guys came up behind him and distracted him. A second later, another man rode up on a bicycle and grabbed the victim’s cell phone out of his hand, before they all ran off, police said.

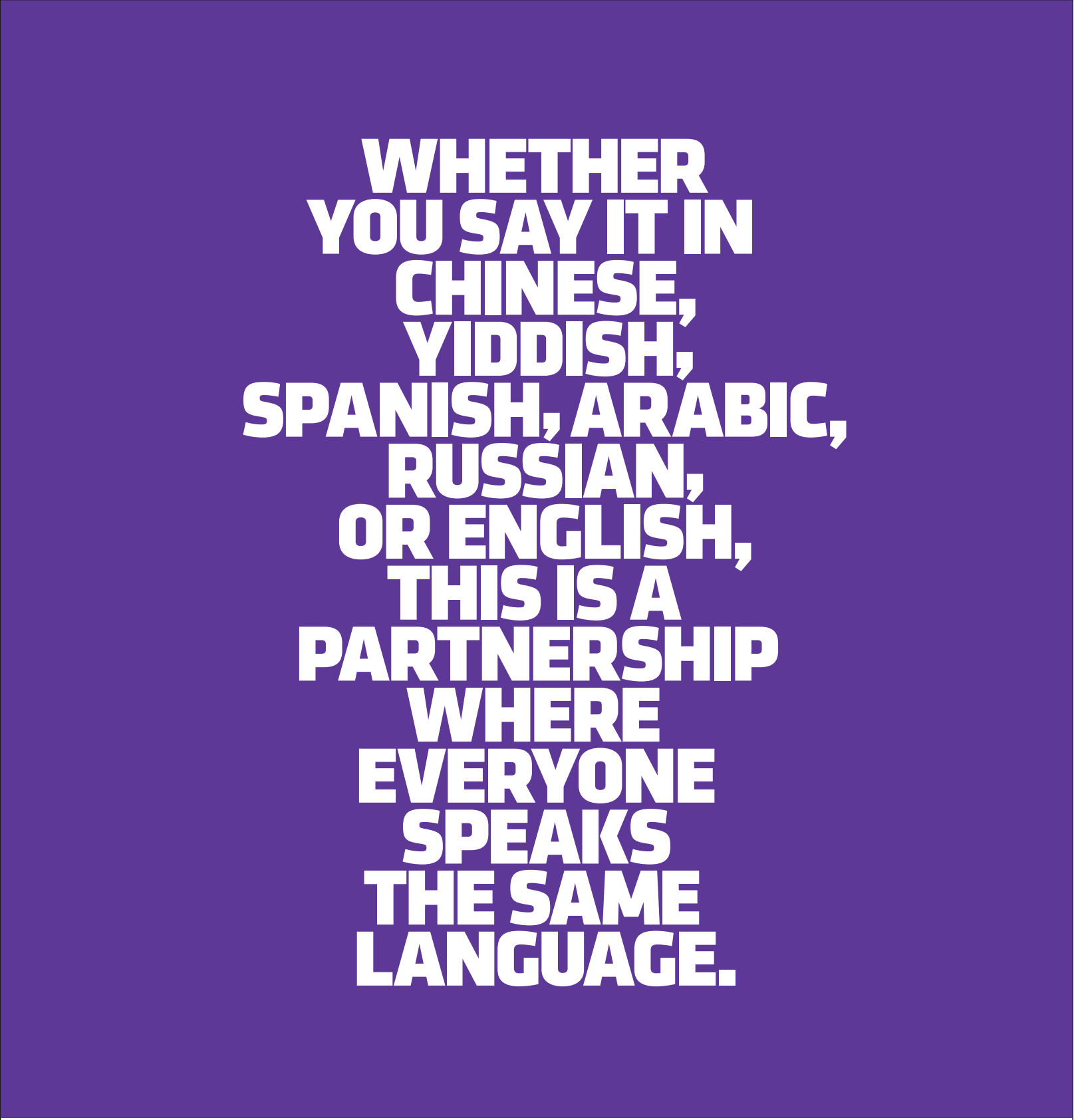
Foul shot

A charlatan tricked a basketball fan into buying fake Nets tickets, police said.

The victim told authorities that he went to the corner of Jackson Street and Graham Avenue at 2 pm on July 3 in 2013 to meet the swindler, who sold him what he thought was a season pass to see the Brooklyn Nets for \$11,500. The pass turned out to be fake, cops said. The victim did not report the rip-off until April 19, police said.

— **Danielle Furfaro**

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Notorious slumlords face 15 years behind bars

Cops arrest brothers for allegedly trashing homes

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

Cops arrested a pair of alleged Brooklyn slumlords on April 17, and the two men now face up to 15 years in prison for allegedly breaking into tenants’ rent-stabilized homes and destroying them in order to force the low-income residents out.

Joel and Amrom Israel, who own or manage 10 buildings in Bushwick and Greenpoint, each face a long list of charges, including burglary, scheming to defraud, and unlawful eviction. Officials say the brothers were hoping to force their rent-stabilized tenants out so they could bring higher rollers in and collect more rent.

The criminal charges against the pair are the first shots in a new war against slumlords that will be fought in criminal court as well as housing court, said Brooklyn district attorney Ken Thompson.

“It is time for law enforcement to step up,” said Thompson outside of 98 Linden St., where the brothers allegedly waged a months-long campaign against the tenants that included knocking massive holes in the floors and wall and hiring a “security guard” to intimidate and threaten them. “We can no longer allow these matters to linger in housing court.”

The two allegedly caused chaos at every property they managed or own. At the Linden Street building, where tenants were paying between \$650 and \$700 a month in rent, they paid guys to take a sledgehammer to the floors, leaving the bathroom and living room unusable, residents claimed. Tenant Michelle Crespo said she was forced to take her 15-year-old and 12-year-old sons to a neighbor’s place or to a nearby McDonalds to use the bathroom for more than a year. The holes in the wall were



Brooklyn District Attorney's office

Brothers Amrom and Joel Israel are facing charges of burglary, fraud, grand larceny, and unlawful eviction for allegedly terrorizing tenants.

so big that she could see into her neighbor’s apartment, and rats and stray cats frequently squatted in her apartment and sometimes died there, she said today.

A tenant at 324 Central Ave. in Bushwick said she went to her doctor one afternoon last year and was locked out of the apartment when she returned home. She called police, who let her inside, where she said she found strange men demolishing her kitchen and bathroom. The Israel brothers then allegedly filed for false construction permits while denying any-

one lived there and did not indicate that the apartment was rent stabilized, prosecutors said.

The tenants at 300 Nassau Ave. in Greenpoint finally won a lengthy court case against the brothers in February.

The tenants there told a housing court judge that the brothers paid someone to take an axe to their boiler, thermostat, and electrical system to get them out and bring in higher-paying renters. The housing court judge appointed an independent administrator to fix the build-

ing, but tenants, who have been staying with relatives or in homeless shelters, will still not be able to get back in for several months.

Tenants said they are ecstatic that the brothers have finally been arrested.

“Finally we get to celebrate today,” said Crespo, as she fought back tears. “No one deserves to go through this.”

The brothers, who both live in Borough Park, were arraigned in Brooklyn Criminal Court this morning. A judge set bail at \$75,000 for Joel Israel and at \$50,000 for Amrom Israel. No one from

their JBI Management company returned calls for comment and a spokesman for their attorneys Becker and Poliakoff said they were not representing the pair in the criminal case.

This could be the first of many cases against bad landlords to come in New York City.

The Israel brothers are only two among a scourge of alleged slumlords in the city, said public advocate Letitia James, adding that there are more than 6,000 names on a city-side watch list.

CRASH...

Continued from page 1
corner at about 11 am, and the back left portion of the truck slammed into the wall, according to the activists. The force of the crash cracked the wall on impact. The volunteers, many of whom were perched on ladders and scaffolding, were shaken, but no one was injured.

The irony of the situation was not lost them.

“It is shocking that while we were installing a memorial for people killed in traffic, a truck crashed into the memorial,” said organizer Keegan Stephan.

The truck driver spent half an hour trying to get his truck unstuck, and he finally gave up on getting the giant vehicle back onto the driving lanes of Kent Avenue and instead cut into the separated bike lane, running over several dividers,

activists said.

The group installed the memorial to protest what they call the city’s insufficient steps taken to quell traffic deaths in the year since it instituted “Vision Zero” — the mayor’s plan to decrease the number of pedestrian fatalities to zero.

The temporary wall is wrapped around the construction site that will be one of the massive skyscrapers of Two Trees Management Co.’s Domino sugar factory project.

This all happened on the same weekend that the New York City Street Memorial Project, which installs white bike sculptures in spots where bicyclists have been killed, hosted its Ghost Bike ride across the city. The two projects are unrelated, but have many crossover members and supporters.

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GRILL BABY GRILL!

Prospect Park opens new grilling area

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

They have a license to grill!

Prospect Park is cooking up a new legal barbecuing area after neighbors on the Prospect-Lefferts Gardens side of the park clamored for more places to get their grill on.

The new location, a patch of grass near the corner of Lincoln Road and East Drive, will provide an accessible, aboveboard cookout spot for the neighbor-

hoods bordering a side of the park that has long lacked the plentiful sanctioned grilling zones near Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, and Ditmas Park, a park representative said.

“Previously there were not as many barbecue areas on the east end of the park,” said Prospect Park Alliance spokeswoman Grace McCreight. “Since we are Brooklyn’s Backyard, we’re really looking to accommodate everyone.”

The new hot spot, which opens Memorial Day weekend, will bring the number of designated grilling areas in the park to 13. The new area does not currently have any fixed grills, so would-be pit masters will need to supply their own cooking apparatuses. Bring-your-own-barbecues must be charcoal—not propane—and must be at least two feet off the ground. And parties of 20 or more will need to secure a permit before lighting up.



Alberto Barrero of Bensonhurst grills chicken in Prospect Park on April 15.

Barbecuing in the park has been a burning issue in past warm-weather seasons. Neighbors have long complained about meat-heads grilling illegally—setting up their smokers in unsanctioned locations or using unauthorized equipment—as well as the effects of charcoal smoke and increased trash. One local launched an online petition last

summer to ban grilling in the park outright, garnering 186 signatures.

But McCreight says she doesn’t expect neighbors to get broiled up about the new grill zone. Park honchos selected the new location precisely because it is relatively far from residential areas, mitigating the risk of wafting smoke, she said, and besides — they were the ones who asked for the new area in the first place.

“The interest in more grilling areas came from the community, and I haven’t heard any complaints about the area,” she said.

And the park will hire additional staff during barbecue season to help address the trash problem, McCreight added.

Life sentence for cold case killer

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

A criminal who was on the lam in Jamaica for more than a decade after killing a teenager in a Bushwick drug turf war will have to serve life in prison.

A jury found Michael Keating, 45, guilty of killing 16-year-old John Eric Ogaldez during an argument over drug-dealing boundaries in 1997. Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Alan Marrus sentenced Keating, who had been hiding out in Bull Bay, Jamaica, to 25 years to life on Monday for his conviction on the second-degree murder charge.

“The defendant was on the run for over 10 years thinking he got away with murder and cowardly living his life on the island of Jamaica,” said Brooklyn district attorney Ken Thompson. “With this long prison sentence, the defendant will have plenty of time to think about the lives he destroyed, including his own.”

In September of 1997, Keating was a 27-year-old drug dealer who claimed part of Bushwick as his turf. He got into an argument with a rival slinger, accusing him of trying to take over his corners. He fired shots at his foe and then shot Ogaldez, who was there with his friend, in the back and stomach, according to the district attorney’s office.

Keating left Ogaldez to die between two parked cars and fled to Jamaica. The U.S. government extradited him back to Brooklyn in 2013.



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You can have too many photos

A high-school friend I hadn’t seen in years was passing through and we had just a few precious hours to catch up, so we wandered around Central Park, exulting in its blossom overdrive, then sat on a sun-warmed rock to chat. Of course, I wanted to see a picture of her kids.

Or two pictures. Max? Three.

But thanks to that bottomless photo album that also sends texts and makes calls, I saw them all: the kids in their play, the kids at the holidays, the kids with their friends, the kids, the kids, the blurry-but-still-apparently-worth-a-look kids!

And then the husband! And the great uncle! And the husband’s brother’s wife’s mother who is sick. Or fine. Or something. Really, I barely know the husband, now I’m out on a limb of the family tree and I can hear it cracking under the weight of my not-caring.

Helllllp! Can I really be the only person struggling to utter another, “Oh! Nice!” while



Rhymes with CRAZY

By Lenore Skenazy

plunging into catatonia? That’s what I asked everyone I could — that is, everyone not too absorbed in their cellphones to actually look up to answer me.

“Technology has made it impossible to run away from slide shows,” is how Laura Srebnik, a Brooklyn-based education consultant, summed it up. “Back in the day, when someone invited you, you could say no. Or if you went, they had snacks.”

Now? Neither.

“It’s not that the pictures are boring,” she adds. “I kind of like looking at them. It’s when it’s like stop-motion animation: ‘Here we are, picking up a shell. Here we are, picking up another shell.’ You see 20 of practically the same image and you’re wondering, ‘Couldn’t

you skip that one?’ and they’re saying, ‘I’m just getting to the good one!’”

The key is the word one, says Marla Muni, a market researcher in Rockland County.

“Some of the pictures don’t come out well, and they’re never organized and people start flipping through...” Meantime, you’re politely waiting or muttering some kind of pleasantry as the photos fly past. That’s why Muni’s idea of good smartphone etiquette is to have handy one single, clear photo of your children at whatever big event they just had.

“So if you ask somebody, ‘Show me the picture from the prom!’ there it is” — un-blurry and, with any luck, including the whole head.

After that? Time to put the device away and resume conversing. When Queens-based new media maven Dawn Siff went to her Dallas high-school reunion recently, “You would look around the room at any given point, and half the people were looking down at the phones, frantically scrolling through pictures to find the exact photo they wanted to show people. So they’re seeing this person they haven’t seen in years — and immediately ignoring them to cue up the perfect picture.”

It made Dawn pine for an earlier era, when people would extract a photo or two from their wallets and apologize because the front-tooth-missing tot in the picture was actually now engaged to be married.

Susan Avery, college counselor at Collegiate Harvest High School in Manhattan, was the only gal I could find who both defended showing an album’s worth of photos to friends, and insisted she liked seeing just as many.

“I’m the first one looking at those pictures,” she says.

She relishes them for the same reason she relished her first profession, journalism: “I love people’s back stories.”

That’s certainly a nice way to frame what we are seeing when folks start scrolling through: Oh, here’s a pair of shoes I was thinking of buying. Here’s our vacation — well, the hotel room, anyway. It was in Antigua. No — Alabama. And here’s a cool bird from my bird feeder. Its wings are flapping so you can’t really see it. And here’s my daughter. And my daughter. And my daughter again, but two seconds later — they change so fast at that age!

As do many of us viewers: From complimentary to comatose. Knowing this, you have your choice of what to edit: Your photos, or your friends.

Choose wisely.

Lenore Skenazy is a public speaker and author of the book and blog *Free-Range Kids*.

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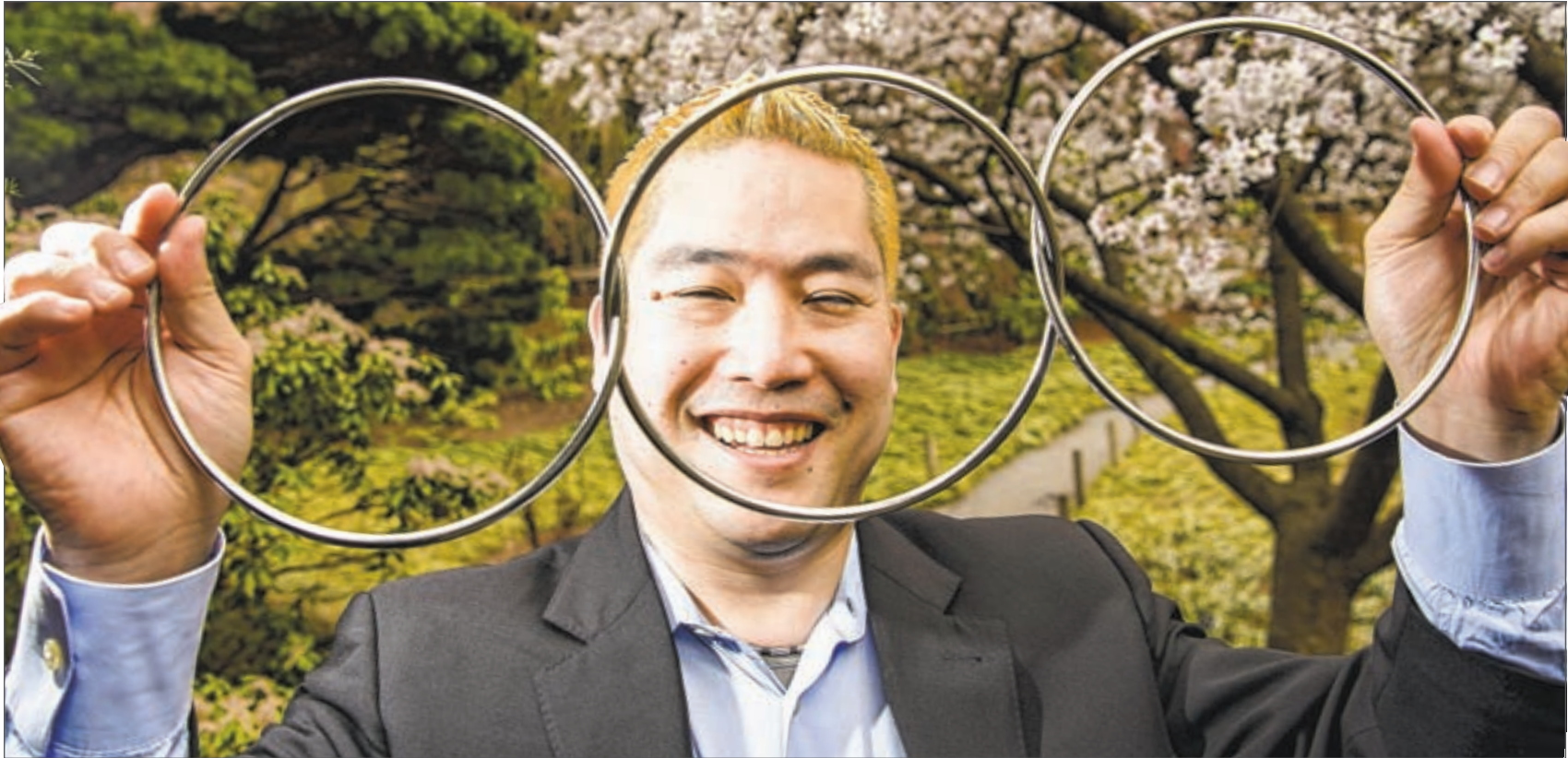


Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Budding talent!

Conjurer brings Japanese flair to magic act at festival

By **Trupti Rami**
for The Brooklyn Paper

They're the oldest tricks in the book — but with a new spin. A Japanese-American magician will use his illusions — and his cultural heritage — when he performs at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Sakura Matsuri cherry blossom festival on April 26.

"I mainly perform classic magic pieces that have been around for decades," said magician Rich Kameda, who will conjure up two shows at park's annual Japanese culture extravaganza. "But when I perform them, I bring along my perspective of being a Japanese-American magician."

Forexample, Kameda said, he begins one trick by mentioning famed Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki. First an audience member selects a card from a deck. Then Kameda draws a picture of a deck of cards. And then, seemingly by magic, the picture animates to show the selected card.

And in his closing trick, Kameda tears a Japanese newspaper several times. As he talks to the audience about the Japanese approach to the arts, the newspaper becomes whole again.

Kameda said he also studies Japanese magic texts to help craft his routine — a process that is sometimes slow and difficult, because many of the older books are written in Old Japanese.

"It's like Old English and modern English," said Kameda, who also calls himself the "Astonishing Asian."

Best of the rest

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Sakura Matsuri festival can be magic even if you don't catch magician Rich Kameda performing his act. Here are just a few highlights of this year's festival.

Comedy import

Tokyo comedian Kaori is traveling halfway across the world to perform her bilingual stand-up routine at the festival.

April 25 at 11 am.

Hip-hop tea

Musician and dancer Akim Funk Buddha is known for fusing western hip-hop and break-dancing with eastern influences, such as throat-singing and martial arts. He will perform alongside a traditional Japanese tea ceremony.

April 25 at 5 pm.



Photo by Jason Gardner

In bloom

Forget bonsai (though you can see that, too) — check out an exhibition and demonstration of Sogetsu Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging.

April 25 at 1 pm.

Basket case

The festival's marketplace features vendors slinging artwork, handmade crafts, vintage kimonos and fabrics, as well as Japanese chocolates and confections.

April 25 and 26 at 10 am-5 pm.

Fashion weekend

Lovers of elaborate, Japanese-influenced costumes (pictured top) will strut their stuff at the annual Sakura Matsuri Cosplay Fashion Show — a highlight every year.

April 26 at 5:15 pm.

Kameda has been attending the Sakura Matsuri Festival since long before he first waved a magic wand. The trickster said he was at the very first festival when he was 12, helping out as his dad's booth for the Japanese-American Lion's Cub and also participating in a demonstration of kendo — a Japanese sword-based martial art. As an adult, he has performed at the celebration for the

past four years, and says he loves the crowd that flocks to the gardens to revel in traditional and modern Japanese culture.

"My favorite part is the feedback I get from the audiences watching the show," Kameda said.

This year's festival, which runs April 25 and 26, will also feature dance, sword fighting, fashion shows, taiko drumming,

and manga comic workshops, amongst other performances and activities.

Rich Kameda at the 34th Sakura Matsuri Festival at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden [990 Washington Ave. between President and Carroll streets in Prospect Heights, (718) 623-7200, www.bbg.org]. April 26 at 2:15 pm and 4 pm. \$25 (\$20 students and seniors, free for kids under 12).

BOOKS

Squat plot

Talk about pretty vacant. A Greenpoint author has written a novel based on her experiences living in a Williamsburg squat in the 1990s. The book is a celebration of the do-it-yourself living ethos that allowed many punks to live communally in New York City at the end of the last century, but it is also a cautionary tale about the struggles of trying to get along when living in large groups, said the writer.

"I want the readers to see this world through the eyes of the main character, who is definitely looking at the world of squatters through rose colored glasses when she arrives," said Stacy Wakefield (pictured), who will read from her novel "The Sunshine Crust Baking Factory" at Greenlight Bookstore in Fort Greene on April 30. "It was not all happy and fun. There were a lot of power struggles."

Like Wakefield, the story's main protagonist Sid is a starry-eyed idealist when she arrives in New York City in the early '90s and starts looking for a place to squat. And also like Wakefield, Sid gives up on squatting in Manhattan and comes looking for a vacant building in then-gritty Williamsburg, ultimately settling inside a burned-out bakery. But Wakefield said she didn't base Sid entirely on herself — she also drew from a variety of people she knew in her squatting days.

Wakefield, who squatted in Holland and England before ending up in Brooklyn, gave up her vagabond ways years ago. She is now has two stable homes — one in Greenpoint and one in the Catskills — but she said she is grateful for what she learned as a squatter, which still informs her views about housing in the city today.

"Housing should be a basic human right, but in New York City, it is just seen as a financial transaction to make people rich," she said. "It is just too bad. There should be more diversity of people and income levels."

Stacy Wakefield reads from "The Sunshine Crust Baking Factory" at Greenlight Books [686 Fulton St. at S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200, www.greenlightbookstore.com]. April 30 at 7:30 pm. Free — **Danielle Furfaro**

MUSIC

Art on canvas

Get ready for another round! The sweet science and sweet sounds will collide when a group of classical musicians performs alongside boxing bouts at Dumbo's famed Gleason's Gym on April 25. Classical ensemble the International Street Cannibals first staged its duet of sparring and symphony in 2005 and has repeated the show several times since. It has been two years since the last performance, and the band's founder said he is excited to get back in the ring for another rematch.

"After a difficult period of administrative and personnel shifts, I've been once again free to focus on this project, which is so very close to my heart, and which has always appeared to me so beneficial to the community," said International Street Cannibals creator and cellist Dan Barrett.

In "Strike!," the eight-piece ensemble will perform works by Bach, Mozart, and Barrett's original compositions in one ring, while teenage boxers perform in another.

"Yes, they're performers," Barrett said. "I think of athletics as an art."

The boxers will compete in three bouts. The band will perform between the fights, as well as one-minute musical interludes during round-breaks for the first two fights, and a full accompaniment for the third and final match. The ensemble will also kick off the show with a swing adaptation of "Die Gedanken sind Frei," a German folk tune calling for freedom of thought, Barrett said.

The classical musicians and budding pugilists actually have a lot in common, Barrett said. Both arts require incredibly high levels of discipline, dedication, and hard work.

"There's constant drilling that's required before one addresses either sports or music," the cellist said. "The drilling aspect is very important — repetition, the perfection of forms."

And because so many fighters have sacrificed blood, sweat, and tears while training at Gleason's over the past 78 years, the gym itself is as much a part of the show as the boxers or musicians, Barrett said.

"Gleason's is really intrinsic to the whole thing, because so many champions have trained there," he said.

"Strike!" at Gleason's Gym [77 Front St. between Main and Washington streets in Dumbo, (718) 979-2872, www.streetcannibals.com]. April 25 at 8 pm, \$20 (\$15 students and seniors, \$10 for those under 17). — **Claire McCartney**



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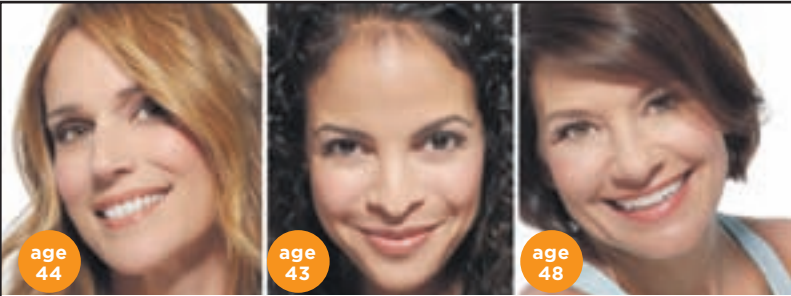
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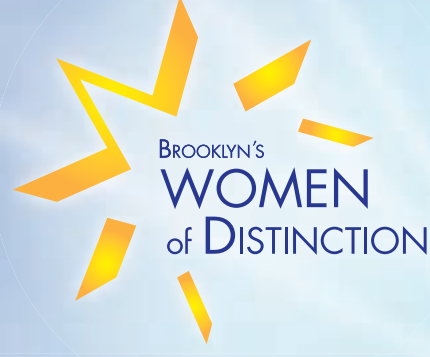
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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY

April 24



Green scene

Talk about a green room! The Big Green Theater Festival, the Bushwick Starr theater's annual festival of kid-written, environmentally conscious plays, is back. Professional actors from the theatrical group Superhero Clubhouse will perform works written by students from PS 123 and PS 075 in Bushwick on April 24 though April 26.

7 pm at the Bushwick Starr (207 Starr St. near Irving Avenue, www.the-bushwickstarr.org). \$18, Saturday and Sunday shows free.

SATURDAY

April 25

What about prom?

Go off like a dirty shirt — to Littlefield's "Pretty In Pink"-themed '80s prom! There will be era-appropriate tunes, a costume contest, a photo booth, and a Duckie dance-off to "Try a Little Tenderness." And remember: drinking and driving don't mix, so ride a bike.

9 pm at Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Third Avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388, www.littlefieldnyc.com]. \$5–\$7.



SUNDAY

April 26



Staple guns

It is the place to be zine! The Brooklyn Zine Fest returns for another year of celebrating Kinkos-created literature April 25 and 26. More than 150 writers, artists, and publishers will share their creations at the Brooklyn Historical Society. There will also be panel discussions on Saturday.

11 am–6 pm at the Brooklyn Historical Society, [128 Pierpont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111, www.brooklyn-zinefest.com]. Free.



MONDAY

April 27

Get wonky

"Politics and Pints" returns to Boerum Hill's 61 Local bar for another round of politically-charged discussion and comedy. Hosts political journalist Allen McDuffee and comedy writer John Flowers will be joined by Slate blogger Amanda Marcotte, comedian Kendra Cunningham, and musician Jeremy Carlsedt.

7:30 pm at 61 Local [61 Bergen St. between Boerum Place and Smith Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 875-1150]. Free, reservations recommended.



TUESDAY

April 28



Punk lit

Never mind the bookshops! John Lydon — better known as Johnny Rotten of the Sex Pistols — will be at Greenpoint heavy metal bar Saint Vitus to sign copies of his new book "Anger is an Energy" and answer audience questions.

8 pm at Saint Vitus (1120 Manhattan Ave. between Clay and Box streets in Greenpoint, www.world-bookstores.com). \$28.99 (includes book).

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, APRIL 24

MUSIC, THE USED, EVERY TIME I DIE, MARMOZETS, THE EERIES: \$29.50. 7 pm. Warsaw [261 Driggs Ave. at Eckford Street in Greenpoint, (718) 387-0505], www.warsawconcerts.com.

MUSIC, GERRY EASTMAN JAZZ BAND AND OPEN JAM SESSION: Part of the Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival. Free with two-drink minimum. 9 pm–2 am. Williamsburg Music Center [367 Bedford Ave. at S. Fifth Street in Williamsburg, (718) 384-1654], www.wmcjazz.org.

ART, "POLITICS": Works by Matthew Connors, Michael Scoggins, and Lisa Sanditz that look to provoke a dialogue about world events. **Free.** 6–9 pm. Transmitter [1329 Willoughby Ave., 2A, between Wyckoff and Saint Nicholas avenues in Bushwick, (917) 881-3576], www.transmitter.nyc.

ART, "INSIDE/OUT": Photographer Libby Rowe's images of domestic structures digitally created from multiple image files. **Free.** 11 am–6 pm. Gowanus Studio Space [166 7th St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (347) 948-5753], www.gowanusstudio.org.

ART, "REPUBLIC OF DUST": A solo exhibition of new photographs by artist Sasha Bezzubov, featuring landscapes and portraits of foreigners and locals who coexist in the threatened environment of the Republic of Gabon's rainforest region. **Free.** 1 pm–6 pm. Front Room Gallery [147 Roebling St. Brooklyn, NY 11211 in Williamsburg, (718) 782-2556], www.frontroom.org.

ARBOR DAY: Enjoy games, crafts, and an exhibit on Brooklyn's last remaining forest, Prospect Park. **Free.** 1–4 pm. Prospect Park Audubon Center [Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400], www.prospectpark.org/audubon.

DANCE, "ROUND TRIP": Original choreography performed by dancers of all ages, set to a global soundtrack that includes classical, jazz, and contemporary music as well as live African drumming. \$32. 7 pm. Kumble Theater at Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488-1624], www.kumbletheater.com.



Hawkish: The Nets face off against the Hawks in their third playoff match at Barclays Center on April 27.

COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

MON, APRIL 27

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MON, MAY 1

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. ATLANTA HAWKS: Playoffs round one, home game three. Time and price TBD.

TUE, MAY 26

MUSIC, THE WHO: \$49.50–\$154.50. 7:30 pm.

WED, JUNE 17

MUSIC, BARRY MANILOW: \$19.75–\$249.75. 7:30 pm.

620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights (917) 618-6100, www.barclayscenter.com.

SAT, APRIL 25

MUSIC, DANGERFEST 2: Band Emily Danger celebrates the '90s with a Lisa Frank theme, sing-a-longs, and trivia. Money raised goes to Jasper House Haiti. \$20. 6:30 pm. The Firehouse Space [246 Frost St. between Humboldt Street and Woodpoint Road in Williamsburg], thefirehousespace.org.

MUSIC, INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF REGGAE CONCERT: Featuring Etana "The Strong One." \$30–\$100. 8 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [2900 Campus Rd. between Amersfort and Kenilworth places in Midwood, (718) 951-4500], www.brooklyncenteronline.org.

MUSIC, BONNIE "PRINCE" BILLY AND WATTER ALBUM RELEASE: **Free.** 9:30 pm. The Wick [260 Meserole St. at Bushwick Place in Bushwick, (347) 799-1049], www.thewicknyc.com.

PROSPECT HEIGHTS CRAFT FAIR: A marketplace of independent artists and designers selling stationery, textiles, artisanal food, jewelry, and more. **Free.** 11 am–6 pm. PS 9 [80 Underhill Ave. between Bergen Street and Saint Marks Avenue in Prospect Heights], www.prospectheightscraftfair.com.

FLATBUSH GREEN WEEKEND: Electronic waste recycling, document shredding, and a food drive. **Free.** 10 am–2 pm. Flatbush Food Co-op [1415 Cortelyou Rd. between Rugby and Marlborough roads in Flatbush, (718) 284-9717], www.flatbushfood.coop.

SCRABBLE FOR CHEATERS: Elimination Scrabble tournament where teams raise money to spend on cheats, including "Invent a Word,"

See 9 DAYS on page 10



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Under the covers

Indie-rock salsa band plays library

By **Trupti Rami**
for The Brooklyn Paper

They’re ordering hits with a side of salsa!

A Williamsburg band is attempting to revive the salsa music that was popular in 1960s and ’70s New York by infusing modern indie-rock song with Latin rhythms and hot horn lines, the group’s lead said.

“The goal is to expand the salsa genre and help bring it back to life,” said Gianni Mano, bandleader of the 10-piece Williamsburg Salsa Orchestra, which will play a free show at the Central Library on April 30 as part of the Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival.

Mano said he started the band five years ago after hearing the song “My Girls” by experimental four-piece Animal Collective and thinking it would make a great yambu — a style of Cuban rumba. So he wrote



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Spicing it up: Williamsburg Salsa Orchestra bandleader Gianni Miano and lead singer Solange Prat.

an arrangement for that song as well as ones from TV on the Radio, Camera Obscura, and others and recorded a demo. Friends and music blogs gave their thumbs up, so he put a band together and started organizing live shows.

It may sound like a strange stylistic fusion, but Mano said

today’s indie bands capture the spirit of the salsa scene in its heyday.

“While much of modern salsa has grown formulaic, the indie scene was still ‘anything goes’ and so it seemed like a good match,” he said.

The orchestra, which has a monthly residency at Brook-

lyn Bowl, includes vocals, piano, bass, three percussionists, and four or five horns, said Mano, who plays timbales in the group.

At the Central Library performance, Mano said the band will play re-imagined covers of “Lonely Boy” by the Black Keys, “L.E.S. Artistes” by Santigod, and “Cheated Hearts” by the Yeah Yeah Yeahs. He said you may have heard these songs before — but you’ve never heard them like this.

“If you haven’t heard a big salsa orchestra in a while, or ever, you will be amazed at the power and subtlety of the band,” Mano said.

“Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival: Williamsburg Salsa Orchestra” at the Central Library [10 Grand Army Plaza between Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 230–2100, www.bklynlibrary.org]. April 30 at 7 pm. Free.

Heat of the fight

Contest to down scorching peppers

By **Noah Hurowitz**
The Brooklyn Paper

They’re pepper pigs!

A peck of brave—and possibly insane—heat-seekers will compete to cram as many of the world’s hottest peppers down their gullets as possible at the NYC Hot Sauce Expo at the Brooklyn Expo Center in Greenpoint on April 26.

This contest is no lightweight jalapeno-chomping contest with your buddies, said the organizer of the face-off.

“Chili-eating is definitely an extreme sport,” said Ed “Smokin’ Ed” Currie. “First, you get a really sweet sensation, and then the heat starts coming and you’re just think-



Ed Currie

Red hot chili peppers: Smokin’ Ed’s Carolina Reaper peppers hold the Guinness world record as the hottest peppers on the planet.

ing, ‘Oh dear god, what have I done?’ There is no stopping the ride at that point.”

Currie is the mad horticulturist behind the Carolina

Reaper, a red-hot pepper that has held the Guinness world record for hottest chili since 2013. He is also the founder of the aptly-named Pucker-

butt Pepper Company, a hot sauce manufacturer in South Carolina.

In Currie’s contest, players must eat as many of the peppers as they can in one minute. But that’s not the hard part. The real challenge begins when the contenders then battle to keep the peppers in their stomachs for five minutes.

Currie said it is around this time that participants start to question their choices—that is, if they manage to stay conscious.

“Of course there’s regret,” he said. “Every time I do it I’m like, ‘Why did I do this again?’”

Peppers are measured by the concentration of capsaicin, the chemical that causes spiciness, and the Carolina Reaper regularly measures more than twice as much of the stuff as the legendary ghost pepper, which previously held the crown.

If that sounds abstract, Currie said to think of a jalapeno like a beer, a ghost

See **PEPPER** on page 10

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The Bay bard

Late Ridge author Sorrentino honored at birthday reading

By Max Jaeger
The Brooklyn Paper

They're turning over a new page on an old master.

A band of Brooklyn authors are celebrating late Bay Ridge literary giant Gilbert Sorrentino's birthday by reading from his canon at St. Joseph's College on April 27. A Ridge-born publishing executive said it is all part of his ongoing plan to start a Sorrentino renaissance among the borough's bookish.

"I kept on waiting for a Sorrentino revival to start — especially given the fact that Brooklyn has become this almost cliché of a red-hot literary territory — so I kept on waiting for all the Brooklyn writers to discover this native Brooklyn author, but they haven't yet," said author and Doubleday editor Gerry Howard, who grew up on Fourth Avenue near 78th Street.

Howard discovered Sorrentino when he reluctantly returned to Bay Ridge after graduating from Cornell University, he said. He dreaded the prospect of laying roots in what he thought of as a parochial backwater, but reading Sorrentino's treatment of the neighborhood in his 1970 novel "Steelwork" helped change his perspective.

"I didn't really know that writers came from Bay Ridge, let alone write superb novels about it, and it just blew me away," he said. "He was very clear-eye and unsentimental. His characters — a lot of them — were very alive and vividly rendered but a lot of them also seemed a bit trapped by their circumstances and limited in their outlook. But he was never snobby or superior about it — he had a real feel for working-class life and that's not very common in American literature."



Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

Fan fiction: Gilbert Sorrentino enthusiast and author Gerry Howard.

Sorrentino was born in Bay Ridge in 1929 and attended PS 102 with childhood friend and fellow author Hubert Selby Jr. He taught at several colleges, including Stanford University, before retiring to Bay Ridge. He died there in 2006.

Howard partnered with Fort Greene's Greenlight Bookstore to organize the event — the book purveyor pulled strings to secure the venue, and Howard pulled together the talent, said store owner Jessica Stockton Bagnulo.

Readers slated for the birthday bash include award-winning novelist Don DeLillo, Sorrentino's son Christopher, and author Mark Chiusano. Chiusano, a Marine Park native, said he also identified with Sorrentino's passages about living in a far-flung part of Brooklyn.

"I came to Sorrentino through 'The Moon and its Flight' — a story about

a young guy who's sorely, sickly in love, who lives in Brooklyn and is sad about that and wants to move to Manhattan," he said. "Growing up in Brooklyn, it resonated with me."

Howard and Ridge scribe Henry Stewart will also lead a walking tour of the neighborhood on May 3, passing by some of Sorrentino's old haunts and capping the walk off with a thin-crust slice reminiscent of Sorrentino's favorite pizzeria Lento's, which has closed. Like the reading, the tour is gratis, Howard said.

"You'll have to pay for your pizza, but that aside, this is a public service," he said.

Gilbert Sorrentino Birthday Tribute at St. Joseph's College, Tuohy Hall [245 Clinton Ave. between Dekalb Avenue and Willoughby Street in Clinton Hill, www.greenlightbookstore.com, (718) 246-0200]. April 27 at 7:30 pm. Free.

PEPPER...

Continued from page 9

pepper like a shot of rum, and a Reaper like a swig of pure alcohol. Or imagine someone pepper-spraying your tongue, he said. Even Currie does not recommend chewing on his own creation.

"There are only about 100 people in the world who can and do eat these on a regular basis, and the rest of the world cannot

and should not try," he said.

But for those brave, reckless souls who want to take a walk on the wild side?

"All I can do is warn you, it's stupid, and it is gonna hurt," Currie said.

The NYC Hot Sauce Expo at the Brooklyn Expo Center (72 Noble St. between Franklin and West streets in Greenpoint, www.nychot-sauceexpo.com). April 25 and April 26 at 10 am–6 pm. \$10. Pepper-eating contest April 26 at 4 pm.

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

and "Buy a Vowel." All money raised goes to 826NYC literacy programs. \$25 registration fee. Noon. Brooklyn Superhero Supply Company [372 Fifth Ave. between Fifth and Sixth streets in Park Slope, (718) 499-9884], 826nyc.org/scrabble.

SUN, APRIL 26

TALK, BROOKLYN LITERARY PUB CRAWL: Tour several Brooklyn Heights pubs closely connected to some of the literary greats. \$15–\$20. 1 pm. Henry Street Ale House [62 Henry St. between Cranberry and Orange streets in Brooklyn Heights, (212) 613-5796], www.literarypubcrawl.com.

MUSIC, GRACE CHORALE OF BROOKLYN: The Grace Choral of Brooklyn joins Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra in a performance of 20th Century British Choral Masterpieces, including William Walton's "Belshazzar's Feast" and Michael Tippett's "Ritual Dances." \$20 (\$18 in advance). 2 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

MUSIC, KATYA GRINEVA: World-renowned pianist performs. \$25. 4 pm. East Midwood Jewish Center, Grand Ball Room [1625 Ocean Ave. between Avenue J and Avenue L in Midwood, (718) 338-3800], www.emjc.org

MON, APRIL 27

COMEDY, THE MEHRAN SHOW: Comedian Mehran Khaghani hosts a weekly comedy show, with celebrity and comedian guests joining him on stage. \$10 (\$8 in advance). 9 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.union-hallnyc.com.

TUES, APRIL 28

ART, "BROOKLYN UNITED THE ARTISTS": An exhibition project on display for Immigration Heritage Week. Free. 4–8 pm. The Bridge MCP [1894 Flatbush Ave. between Avenue L and Hubbard Place in Flatbush, (917) 497-0306], www.thebridgemcp.com.

WED, APRIL 29

DANCE, DANCEWAVE'S ANNUAL SPRING GALA: Fundraiser for organization offering affordable dance classes to Brooklyn youth. The event will include dinner, an open bar, a silent auction, social dancing, and a performance from the performing company. \$125–\$150. 6–9 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. at Third Avenue in Boerum Hill, (917) 267-0363], www.roulette.org.

COMEDY, THE BIG TERRIFIC COMEDY SHOW: Standup comedy, hosted by Max Silvestri. Free. 8 pm. Cameo Gallery [93 N. Sixth St. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-1180], www.cameony.net.

THURS, APRIL 30

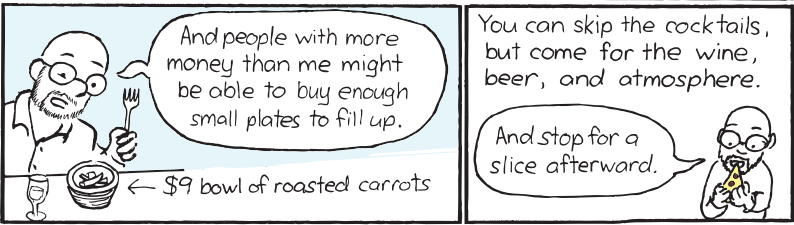
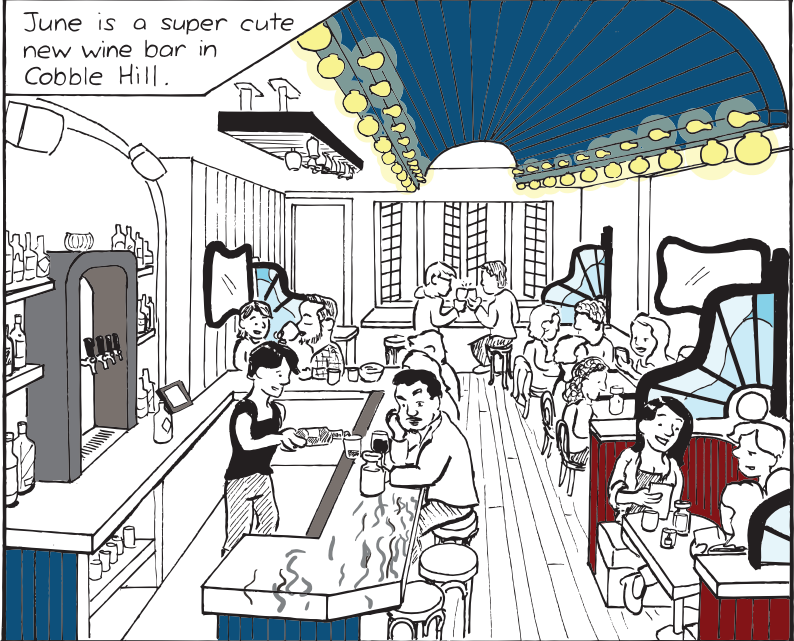
TALK, NATALIE FRANK: In honor of the exhibition "Natalie Frank: The Brothers Grimm," at the Drawing Center, Frank joins curator Claire Gilman, art historian Linda Nochlin, and fairy tale expert Jack Zipes for a discussion about fairy tales, sexuality, feminism, and Frank's recent work. Free with museum admission. 7 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

THEATER, "THE BELLAGIO FOUNTAIN HAS BEEN KNOWN TO MAKE ME CRY": Concrete Temple Theatre presents a play following the stories of two women and the water around them, exploring themes of conservation and regeneration. \$18. 8 pm. Studio 301 at English Kills

BAR SCRAWL



By Bill Roundy



June [231 Court St. between Warren and Baltic streets in Cobble Hill, (917) 909-0434, www.junebk.com]. Open Sun–Thu, 5:30 pm–midnight; Fri, Sat, 5:30 pm–1 am.

[301 Ten Eyck St. between Waterbury and Bogart streets in Williamsburg, (646) 234-0399], www.concretetempletheatre.com.

Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

Army Plaza (Union Street between Flatbush Avenue and Prospect Park West in Park Slope).

FRI, MAY 1

MUSIC, WYCLIFFE GORDON QUARTET: Part of the Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival. \$20. 8–11 pm. Jazz 966 [966 Fulton St. between Saint James Place and Grand Avenue in Clinton Hill, (917) 593-9776], www.jazz966.com.

MUSIC, MC FRONTALOT, SCHAFFER THE DARKLORD, DUALCORE: \$12. 8 pm. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and

SAT, MAY 2

COFFEE BARK: Bring your pups to the park for treats and conversation. Free. 7–9 am. Prospect Park Picnic House (Prospect Park West and Fifth Street in Park Slope), www.prospectpark.org.

CHANTS FOR PEACE: A new twist on the maypole dance, participants will create and fly ribbons inscribed with messages of peace and hope in the tradition of Buddhist prayer flags. Free. 11 am–2 pm. Grand

MUSIC, INDEPENDENT BOOKSTORE DAY AFTER-PARTY: PowerHouse Arena hosts the official Independent Bookstore Day after-party, with drinks and music. Free. 9–11:30 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666-3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

SPORTS, NEW YORK COSMOS VS. OTTAWA FURY FC: Soccer match. \$15–\$95. 7 pm. MCU Park [1904 Surf Ave. at W. 17th St. in Coney Island, (718) 449-8497], www.brooklyncyclones.com.

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Do the Nets want to win?

It is hard to argue with the Truth after Sunday’s display. A week ago, Paul Pierce told ESPN that his time in Brooklyn was spent alongside vets “who didn’t want to play.” Doesn’t he seem like a soothsayer now?

Within striking distance in the fourth quarter, and with my bird friends the Atlanta Hawks taking stupid shots and forcing even stupider passes, the Nets had every opportunity to take game one on the road against the heavily favored top seed in the East. The result? An opportunity squandered.

Look, I’m a pigeon and I’m quite familiar with squandering, or, perhaps more appropriately, human squandering. Buffalo Wild Wings blazin’ wings spilling over the dumpsters outside Atlantic Terminal with the celery and carrots to match. You guys love to sleep on the veggies. Your loss. There’s hardened calamari found in a tipped-over garbage can with the Styrofoam hatch just wide enough for me to dip my beak in. And of course, stale Easter candy from Rite Aid.

All of these gifts are passed down from the god of the street to keep all those beaks in the ecosystem happy.

I’m not a particularly religious bird, but I know it will take a minor miracle — and lots of prayers — for the Nets to win this series, especially after letting game one slip away. And the worst part? It never even felt like they could win. Sure, they got within four



The Nets Brook Lopez needs to get the ball more if the Nets want to win this playoff series against Crummy’s feathered friends, the Hawks.

Flagrant Fowl

with Crummy the Pigeon

points with just over a minute and a half to go, but there was never a true threat.

The team didn’t utilize its only advantage over the Hawks: Brook Lopez. The man went off for 17 points (on six-of-seven shooting!) no thanks to his teammates, as four of those attempts came on offensive rebounds. Yes, he was a beast under the boards, pulling down 14 rebounds. I just wish his pals did a better job getting him the ball.

I’m sure I know how the

big lug feels. Every park I go to there is this sign that says “Don’t feed the birds”. I say why not? We’re loyal, we don’t bother anybody, we clean up your messes. Sure, my crew has been known to leave empty 40s and the leftovers from our digestive system everywhere, but that’s beside the point. Just like us birds, the big man needs to be fed. If the Nets are going to have any chance against the Hawks, Brook Lopez needs to be the go-to guy.

Even then, it won’t be easy, as Atlanta will pull out all the stops. Hawks rapper-in-residence Titty Boi (a.k.a. 2 Chainz) will give way to Ludacris for game two. Not sure if that is an upgrade or not, but you can bet he will disturb the peace that was the Hawks

game one performance. The team only shot 10 of 30 from behind the three-point line, with Kyle Korver accounting for five of those. It would behoove the Nets to stop allowing Bojan Bogdanovic to watch him, and even then the Hawks will still probably shoot better. But to be safe, keep Bogdanovic on the bench — don’t want him to fall victim to any pick-and-rolls.

No one expects the Nets to win and they probably won’t, so the least they can do is prove Paul Pierce wrong and try to win. No more squandered opportunities. I can’t clean up every mess.

By the way, if you are not going to finish that pretzel, drop it over here. My kids need a treat.

Museum gala honors Lehman

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

It’s Arnie’s Army!

Art lovers flocked to the Brooklyn Museum on April 15 to toast the museum’s departing director, Arnold Lehman, and take in an exhibition that included works by legendary street artist (and



Arnold Lehman

Park Slope-born) Jean-Michel Basquiat.

The show, “Diverse Works: Director’s Choice 1997–2015” consisted of art collected by Lehman during his nearly 20-year tenure as Grand Poobah at the museum. In addition to Basquiat, it included works by artists Kiki

Smith, Laurie Simmons, and Ai Weiwei.

Attractions at the fifth annual Artists Ball included dancers entirely wrapped in crochet bodysuits, a derriere donut (your guess is as good as ours), and a dance party curated by the cool cats at Fools Gold Records.

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TOXIC

Continued from page 12

goggles, but attempted his swim without anything covering his face, which was frequently submerged in the swirl as he paddled. He periodically paused to gargle his mouth clean with hydrogen peroxide, and despite knowing that the Canal is home to viable cultures of gonorrhea, insisted he had no need to worry about contracting the uncomfortable but treatable infection.

Swain's noon dive-off was delayed nearly two hours while he worked with police concerned about the safety of Swain's daredevil experiment, which some have likened to Evel Knievel's failed attempt to jump the Snake River Canyon in a rocket. The sticking point was the location of his extraction at the end of the canal, because cops were concerned that any property owner on whose land he slithered out of the water would not necessarily be aware of the dangerous fluids dripping off of his body.

At one point Swain had said he planned to swim as far out into the harbor as was humanly possible to "rinse off," leaving some to suggest he would have to go all the way to Sandy Hook, if not the Atlantic Highlands. But eventually he settled for a dunk in bleach water following the press conference at Whole Foods.

The commanding officer of the 78th Precinct, which encompasses part of the Canal, told reporters that Swain had every right to plop himself into Brooklyn's nautical Purgatory, although officers from the department's harbor unit stood by ready to assist if the intrepid swimmer needed help.

Cops were not the only ones worried about Swain's safety. The day before his daring deed, the regional branch of the Environmental Protection Agency tweeted a warning advising the activist against dunking in the Canal's dirty water.

"The EPA strongly advises AGAINST swimming in the Gowanus Canal," tweeted the Agency — at The Brooklyn Paper, of course — on Tuesday after learning of activist's plan.

The agency shared a 2011



Dozens of reporters and spectators watch as Christopher Swain swims past the Carroll Street Bridge toward Whole Foods on April 22.

fact sheet explaining numerous ways such a dip in Brooklyn's nautical purgatory could be hazardous to your health.

It was just that miasma of toxins that motivated Swain to embark on his journey in the first place. The New York-born activist said he hoped the attention his stunt would bring would help spur along the slow-moving federal cleanup of the canal and its surrounding neighborhood, claiming it is about time the area finally got cleaned up after years of abuse.

"We split the atom, we went to the moon," he said. "Why can't we clean up a 1.8 mile canal to the point of being able to swim in it?"

Swain may have had noble aims, but not everyone in the neighborhood was glad to see him criticizing the cleanup effort without mentioning the fact that residents have been fighting to have the so-called Lavender Lake cleaned up for decades.

"I think he is pretty far out of touch with the incredible advocacy this community has been doing all along, which has been matched by the extremely bountiful response by city, state, and federal levels of government," said Craig Hammerman, district manager of Community Board 6. "This was not only a spectacle, but it also drained police resources as well. We frankly think our police should be keeping the community safe, not chasing publicity hounds around."

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Travelling without stress

There is definitely more than one way to do things, and it doesn't always have to be the stressed-out way. Travel confirms this.

An image that looms large from my family's recent trip to Guatemala is the truck that carried people to work in the morning.

It was a pick-up truck outfitted with a steel structure that those left to stand hung on to (or off of) as it made its way down the steep mountain road where we stayed near Lake Atitlan.

"Well," I said, the first time we saw the crowded commuter truck, "that sure is a far cry from our country's strict seat-belt laws."

Maybe it is the dogs that wander around off-leash, or the speed bumps that are spaced strategically along the curvy thoroughfares of the country or the traffic that clogs up in populated areas that slow things down and prevent such a seemingly dangerous mode of travel from causing deaths. Guatemala ranks far lower than the U.S. in car-crash deaths, with only five per 100,000 people a year versus 14 per 100,000 here.

I love being in another country that does things more loosely, and I love pointing out these discrepancies to my kids, mainly because it seems we can get caught up in the "have-tos" and the "shoulds" that sprout up in our lives, and we stop even questioning them.

It is hard to imagine a United States where people are allowed to hang off pick-up trucks, or let their dogs roam free, but seeing those things work well in another place greatly eases the panic that can rise in association with the growing set of stringent rules that govern American society.

"They can't walk in the rain?!" a mother said to me one day, years ago, when I lamented that the kids took the school bus the few blocks to second-grade swim at the Y.

Had they walked, they would have gotten wet —



Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

but so what?

I didn't get mad. I didn't stand on my soapbox and opine on the need to loosen the reigns and stop scaring parents and children alike about basic scary things like rain. But I did have my say.

"They can walk in the rain," I pointed out.

She looked at me blankly and I wondered: was she a different species? Maybe she melted in the rain, and so did her daughter? Maybe she knew something I didn't, and this was a particularly strong acid rain that was going to kill us all

if we let a drop touch us.

But, no. I don't think any of that was true. I think her comment was borne of a common fear that has been perpetuated to sell us things we don't need. Because if, god forbid, the children had been forced to walk in the rain, they would have needed umbrellas and jackets and galoshes and all kinds of fancy accouterments to keep them safe.

Such is the state of things here and, as a parent, I protest. We don't have to be afraid of the rain. We don't have to freak out if the children take

off their seat belts for a second to grab something from the back of the car. We don't have to panic if a dog goes off-leash for a bit.

I loved being in Guatemala. I loved the slower pace. I loved seeing the ladies wash their bright clothes in communal areas where they scrubbed them by hand and then packed them up in fabric bundles to hang out to dry, no machine necessary. I loved seeing the Mayan fisherman in their carved wooden canoes catch fish with just a string and a fly on a hook. I loved seeing dogs, mostly groomed and friendly, meander slowly through the streets in between the little fearless speeding taxis they call tuk-tuks. I loved showing my kids that we don't have to be so nervous and afraid, that things don't have to be handled just the way our society says they do.

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Pushed too far

Injured protester says officer bruised her ribs with dangerous ‘power shove’

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

Talk about push coming to shove.

A violent shove by a police officer during a march caught on video near Grand Army Plaza last Tuesday left a Bedford-Stuyvesant woman writhing in pain on the pavement and potentially out of work for weeks, claims the victim who said when it happened, she thought the cop had fired his weapon at her.

“There was no stumbling, no losing footing, it was just a straight power shove and next thing I know I was on the ground with a very sharp pain down my side and back,” said Elsa Waithe. “For a moment I thought I had been shot.”

Waithe, who was volunteering with Cop Watch — a group that monitors interactions between police and citizens — said she was standing on the sidewalk near Flatbush Avenue and Sterling Place when she saw police



Keegan Stephan

Elsa Waithe lies in a bed at New York Methodist Hospital with a supporter after a cop shoved her against a metal tree guard during a protest on April 14.

attempting to arrest a man around 7 pm. Waithe said she moved closer to observe the arrest, when she suddenly felt a “tremendous force” on

her chest, which pushed her back and down onto a shin-high metal tree guard. The push, she said, was an unambiguous attack.

Waithe was taken to New York Methodist Hospital in Park Slope, where doctors told her she had badly bruised ribs and possible hairline fractures, and now the painter and part-time comedian says she won’t be able to work for the foreseeable future.

A police spokeswoman said the Internal Affairs Bureau is investigating the altercation after a video, which shows a man pushing Waithe and the green-hatted legal observer to the ground, went viral in the hours following the protest. Waithe said did not know how widely the footage of her injury had spread until her worried father called to say he had seen the footage on television.

Waithe has retained a lawyer and declined to comment on any possible litigation against the city, but pointed out there would be a literal price to pay for her injuries.

“There are definitely going to be some bills coming,” she said. “You don’t get to hurt yourself for free in this country.”

She added that she will continue to speak out about the incident — when she is well enough.

“I’m not going to be quiet about this,” she said.

Ninth St. bridge to close nightly through October

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

Do not pass Go-wanus.

The Ninth Street bridge over the Gowanus Canal will be closed nightly from April 24 through Oct. 19 for construction work on the elevated Culver Viaduct, which runs above it.

Commuters too scared to swim across the waterway instead should note that the B61 bus, which shuttles from Downtown through Red Hook to Park Slope, will make a detour each night from 10 pm to 6 am during the closure. The Park Slope-bound bus will reroute via Smith Street to Third Street to Third Av-



Community Board 6

The B61 bus will take a nightly detour from 10 pm to 6 am while construction on the Culver Viaduct closes the Ninth Street Bridge over the Gowanus Canal from April to October.

enue, rejoining the normal route at Ninth Street, while the Downtown-bound bus will take Second Avenue to Hamilton Avenue to Smith Street and pick up its normal route at Ninth Street.

The restoration of the Culver Viaduct, which carries the elevated F and G train tracks between Carroll Gardens and Park Slope, has dragged on for years.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority announced the project in 2007, and construction began in 2011, but the work has been mired in complications, including one contractor abandoning the project altogether.


As a result, the budget of the restoration has ballooned from an original \$19 million to a projected \$43 million. Work on the Viaduct is scheduled to wrap up in October, according to the transit authority’s website.

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New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai, nationally recognized for specialist eye, ear, nose and throat care, has four satellite Brooklyn offices providing the highest quality ophthalmologic, ear, nose and throat and plastic and reconstructive surgery services.

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Legal Notices

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 04/21/2015, bearing Index Number NC-000441-15/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Howard (Last) Li. My present name is (First) Shu (Middle) Xu (Last) Li (infant). My present address is 1026 63rd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219. My place of birth is Manhattan, NY. My date of birth is January 03, 2011.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 04/21/2015, bearing Index Number NC-000435-15/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Magaly (Last) Herrera. My present name is (First) Hagaly (Last) Herrera. My present address is 1141 39th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11218. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is December 05, 1995.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 04/21/2015, bearing Index Number NC-000440-15/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Betty (Last) Li. My present name is (First) Hui (Middle) Xin (Last) Li (infant). My present address is 1026 63rd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is April 10, 2007.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Supreme Court, Kings County on 04/20/2015, bearing Index Number NC-000432-15/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Shamsa (Last) Kanwal. My present name is (First) Shamsa (Last) Ali AKA Shamsa Kanwal. My present address is 548 East 5th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11218. My place of birth is Pakistan. My date of birth is November 15, 1981.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 04/21/2015, bearing Index Number NC-000439-15/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Fiona (Last) Li. My present name is (First) Hui (Middle) Tong (Last) Li (infant). My present address is 1026 63rd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is April 29, 2008.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Supreme Court, Kings County on 04/20/2015, bearing Index Number NC-000429-15/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Leonid (Middle) Joseph (Last) Khodorovsky. My present name is (First) Leonard (Last) Kodorovsky AKA Leonard Joseph Kodorovsky AKA Leonid Khodorovsky FKA Leonid Khodorovsky. My present address is 2738 East 28th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11235-2410. My place of birth is Kiev, Ukraine. My date of birth is August 06, 1952.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Supreme Court, Kings County on 04/20/2015, bearing Index Number NC-000428-15/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Kay (Middle) Helen (Last) Goldfrank. My present name is (First) Kay (Middle) Helen (Last) Shoshani (infant). My present address is 191 Richards Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231-1526. My place of birth is Manhattan, NY. My date of birth is January 21, 2003.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 04/20/2015, bearing Index Number NC-000433-15/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Jennifer (Middle) Patricia (Last) DuBois. My present name is (First) Jennifer (Middle) Patricia (Last) DeBois. My present address is 1026 East 85th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236. My place of birth is Barbados. My date of birth is January 15 1969.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 04/20/2015, bearing Index Number NC-000433-15/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Kimberley (Middle) Ahanna (Last) DuBois. My present name is (First) Kimberley (Middle) Ahanna (Last) DeBois (infant). My present address is 1026 East 86th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is September 25, 1998.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 04/20/2015, bearing Index Number NC-000433-15/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Preston (Middle) Davidson (Last) DuBois. My present name is (First) Preston (Middle) Davidson (Last) DeBois (infant). My present address is 1026 East 85th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is November 26, 1999.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 04/20/2015, bearing Index Number NC-000433-15/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Shamsa (Last) Kanwal. My present name is (First) Shamsa (Last) Ali AKA Shamsa Kanwal. My present address is 548 East 5th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11218. My place of birth is Pakistan. My date of birth is November 15, 1981.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 04/21/2015, bearing Index Number NC-000434-15/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Murty (Middle) Suryanarayan (Last) Gollakota. My present name is (First) Gollakota (Middle) Suryanarayan (Last) Murty AKA Murty Suryanarayan Gollakota AKA Murty Gollakota AKA Suryanarayan Murty Gollakota AKA Suryanarayan M. Gollakota. My present address is 130 N. 10th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11249. My place of birth is Petersburg, Virginia. My date of birth is July 07, 1976.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 04/21/2015, bearing Index Number NC-000436-15/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Elisa (Middle) Shelli (Last) Pupko-Pope. My present name is (First) Elisa (Middle) Shelli (Last) Pope AKA Elisa Shelli Pupko AKA Elisa Shelli Pupko-Pope. My present address is 36 Monroe Place, Brooklyn, NY 11201. My place of birth is Edmonds, Washington. My date of birth is October 14, 1983.

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT -
COUNTY OF KINGS
HSBC BANK USA, N.A., AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE FOR THE REGISTERED NOTEHOLDERS OF RENAISSANCE HOME EQUITY LOAN TRUST 2005-3, RENAISSANCE HOME EQUITY LOAN ASSET-BACKED NOTES, SERIES 2005-3, Plaintiff(s), Against

Index No: 14882/11
VINCENT AVITABLE, ET AL., Defendant(s).
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered in the Kings County Clerk's Office on 2/25/2015, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201 on 5/28/2015 at 2:30 pm premises known as 2838 West 15th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11214, and described as follows:

ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, and designated on the tax maps of the Kings County Treasurer as Block 7022 and Lot 24.

The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is \$341,257.48 plus interest and costs. The premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # 14882/11.

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney, Regina Darby, Esq., Referee. Leopold & Associates, PLLC, 80 Business Park Drive, Suite 110, Armonk, NY 10504
Dated: 3/30/2015 GS

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS M&T Bank, Plaintiff, -against- DAWN BEST, et al., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated 1/22/2015 and entered thereafter, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on May 21, 2015 at 02:30PM, premises known as 168 St. James Place, Brooklyn, NY 11238. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 1963 Lot 74. Approximate amount of judgment is \$842,784.58 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 762-10. Nancy Mottola Schacher, Esq., Referee Schiller & Knapp, LLP 950 New Loudon Road Latham, NY 12110 Attorneys for Plaintiff 1134969 4/17, 4/24, 5/1, 05/08/2015

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION FILE NO.13-CVD-853
NORTH CAROLINA WILSON COUNTY COUNTY OF WILSON Plaintiff, vs. DORIS BARNES a/k/a DORIS NORMAN, et al Defendants.
TO: DORIS BARNES A/K/A DORIS NORMAN and spouse, if any, and any HEIRS ASSIGNS or DEVISEES OF DORIS BARNES A/K/A DORIS NORMAN and spouse, if any, or any other person or entity claiming thereunder. A pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action and notice of service of process by publication began on April 17, 2015.

The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: Foreclosure on tax parcel(s) more completely described in the Complaint, to collect delinquent ad valorem taxes (assessments). Plaintiff seeks to extinguish any and all claim or interest that you may have in said property.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40)days after the date of the first publication of notice stated above, exclusive of such date, being forty (40) days after April 17, 2015, or by May 27, 2015, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service of process by publication will apply to the Court for relief sought.

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than forty (40) days after the date of the first publication of notice stated above, exclusive of such date, being forty (40) days after April 17, 2015, or by May 27, 2015, and upon your failure to do so, the party seeking service of process by publication will apply to the Court for relief sought.

This the 8th day of April, 2015, MARK D. BARDILL Attorney for Plaintiff 310 W. Jones St. P.O. Box 25 Trenton, North Carolina 28585 (252) 448-4541
Publication dates: April 17, 2015 April 24, 2015 May 1, 2015

PUBLIC NOTICE:
"Cellico Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) is proposing to install rooftop wireless telecommunications antennas on a building that reaches an overall height of 61 feet above ground level at 557 Franklin Avenue, Brooklyn, Kings County, New York 11238. Public comments regarding potential effects from the site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Marianne Walsh, E2PM, 87 Hibernia Avenue, Rockaway, NJ 07866, by email to: marianne.walsh@e2pm.com, or phone: (973) 299-5200. Please refer to E2PM Tracking Number P-15-08-15."

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF KINGS
INDEX# 28759/09 FILED: 9/8/2010
SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS AND NOTICE
Plaintiff designates Kings County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the mortgage premise is situated. LENDAMERICA, Plaintiff against DAOCHANG ZHANG, if he be living and if he be dead, if the respective heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest, and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said defendant who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lien or interest in or to the real property described in the complaint herein, 192 GRANT AVENUE, LLC, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and "JOHN DOE" and "JANE DOE" the last two names being fictitious, said parties intended being tenants or occupants, if any, having or claiming an interest in, or in upon the premises described in the complaint. Defendant(s) TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEYS FOR THE MORTGAGE COMPANY WHO FILED THIS FORECLOSURE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AND YOU CAN LOSE YOUR HOME. SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY OR GO TO THE COURT WHERE YOU CASE IS PENDING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO ANSWER THE SUMMONS AND PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY. SENDING A PAYMENT TO YOUR MORTGAGE COMPANY WILL NOT STOP THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING AN ANSWER WITH THE COURT. Kozenny, McCubbin & Katz, LLP, Attorneys for the Plaintiff, 395 N. Service Road, Suite 401, Melville, NY 11747 Our File 13105

terest at 6% per annum from May 1, 2009. Plaintiff is also entitled to a reasonable attorneys' fees in the amount of \$1,300.00, plus costs and disbursements, for which demand is hereby made. UNLESS YOU DISPUTE THE VALIDITY OF THE DEBT, OR ANY PORTION THEREOF, WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER YOUR RECEIPT HEREOF THAT THE DEBT, OR ANY PORTION THEREOF, IS DISPUTED, THE DEBTOR JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU AND A COPY OF SUCH VERIFICATION OR JUDGMENT WILL BE MAILED TO YOU BY THE HEREIN DEBT COLLECTOR. IF APPLICABLE, UPON YOUR WRITTEN REQUEST, WITHIN SAID THIRTY (30) DAY PERIOD, THE HEREIN DEBT COLLECTOR WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE FROM THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, YOU ARE NOT PERSONALLY LIABLE FOR THE UNDERLYING INDEBTEDNESS OWED TO PLAINTIFF/CREDITOR AND THIS NOTICE/DIS-CLOSURE IS FOR COMPLIANCE AND INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS IN FORECLOSURE New York State requires that we send you this notice about the foreclosure process. Please read it carefully. SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT

You are in danger of losing your home. If you fail to respond to the summons and complaint in this foreclosure action, you may lose your home. Please read the summons and complaint carefully. You should immediately contact an attorney or your local legal aid office to obtain advice on how to protect yourself. SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. In addition to seeking assistance from an attorney or legal aid, there are government agencies, and non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about possible options, including trying to work with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by New York state Banking Department at 1-877-Bank-NYS or visit the Department's website at www.banking.state.ny.us FORECLOSURE RESCUE SCAMS Be careful of people who approach you with offers to "save" your home. There are individuals who watch for notices of foreclosure actions in order to unfairly profit from a homeowner's distress. You should be extremely careful about any such promises and any suggestions that you pay them a fee or sign over your deed. State law requires anyone offering such services for profit to enter into a contract which fully describes the services they will perform and fees they will charge, and which prohibits them from taking any money from you until they have completed all such promised services. Section 1303 NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving the copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you may lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING AN ANSWER WITH THE COURT. Kozenny, McCubbin & Katz, LLP, Attorneys for the Plaintiff, 395 N. Service Road, Suite 401, Melville, NY 11747 Our File 13105

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You are in danger of losing your home. If you fail to respond to the summons and complaint in this foreclosure action, you may lose your home. Please read the summons and complaint carefully. You should immediately contact an attorney or your local legal aid office to obtain advice on how to protect yourself. SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. In addition to seeking assistance from an attorney or legal aid, there are government agencies, and non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about possible options, including trying to work with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by New York state Banking Department at 1-877-Bank-NYS or visit the Department's website at www.banking.state.ny.us FORECLOSURE RESCUE SCAMS Be careful of people who approach you with offers to "save" your home. There are individuals who watch for notices of foreclosure actions in order to unfairly profit from a homeowner's distress. You should be extremely careful about any such promises and any suggestions that you pay them a fee or sign over your deed. State law requires anyone offering such services for profit to enter into a contract which fully describes the services they will perform and fees they will charge, and which prohibits them from taking any money from you until they have completed all such promised services. Section 1303 NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving the copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you may lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING AN ANSWER WITH THE COURT. Kozenny, McCubbin & Katz, LLP, Attorneys for the Plaintiff, 395 N. Service Road, Suite 401, Melville, NY 11747 Our File 13105

SALES HELP WANTED

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All employment advertised herein is subject to section 296 of the human rights law, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination because of race, color, creed, national origin, disability, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation, or arrest conviction record, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. Title 29, U.S. Code, Chap 630, excludes the Federal Gov't from the age discrimination provisions. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for employment which is in violation of the law. Our readers are informed that employment offerings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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Office of the Public Advocate

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